

The Times-Dispatch

Business Office.....101 E. Main Street
 South Richmond.....1020 Main Street
 Petersburg Bureau.....109 N. Eighth Street
 Lynchburg Bureau.....215 Eighth Street

BY MAIL: One Six Three One
 POSTAGE PAID Year: Six Months
 Daily with Sunday.....\$4.00 12.00 12.00
 Daily without Sunday.....4.00 2.00 1.00
 Sunday edition only.....2.00 1.00 .50
 Weekly (Wednesday).....1.00 .50 .25

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg: One Week
 Daily with Sunday......15 cents
 Daily without Sunday.....10 cents
 Sunday only.....5 cents

Entered January 27, 1902, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1912.

NOT YET SETTLED.

"We've got the vote, and we are going to settle this matter right now while we've got it," was the exulting cry of the politicians who succeeded Tuesday night in prevailing upon the City Democratic Committee to kill the plan for a nominating convention for the Administrative Board. This was the view of those who feared to subject their records to the acid test of the calm and dispassionate judgment of their fellow-citizens. Chairman Miles Martin's blow rang true when he declared that "to cast aside a large element of voters and act hastily in this matter is a dangerous experiment."

The convention plan was defeated by a coalition of city employees and trickster candidates for the Administrative Board. These gentry, deluded into believing that because they have controlled in the past they can control forever, have gone a little too far this time, and the application of their steam roller to the people of Richmond will inevitably react. The substantial and patriotic men behind the convention plan did not wish to nominate a citizens' ticket or any other ticket which did not bear the official brand of the Democratic party of Richmond. The proponents of the convention wished to give all factions a full and free opportunity to participate in the nomination of five men who would be acceptable to the citizens. The City Democratic Committee has refused to allow such an opportunity, and if a citizens' ticket is nominated the responsibility must rest upon that committee. A few "citizens' associations" bulldozed the committee with the threat that they would not take part in the primary for a convention if the committee ordered a convention. A mere handful of voters, misled by demagogues, were able to make the City Democratic Committee go down on its knees in the mud and apologize most profoundly for daring to think of such a thing as the interests of the people of Richmond. Hereafter, whenever a few malcontents threaten that they will desert the party the Democrats of Richmond must stop in their tracks and sacrifice progress and good government to the whim of a few mossbacks with a bad case of the pips. The City Democratic Committee hasn't as much backbone as an oyster; what need is there of it, when the East End Citizens' Association thinks for it?

The time has come when the friends of decent government in Richmond must put their heads together and agree upon some plan which will insure to the people a city government which will give them their money's worth. No matter what the city employes, unit politicians may or may not do, it cannot be allowed to keep Richmond from getting \$5,000 additional revenue of \$5,000 more. The citizens of Richmond get together, and created this Administrative Board, and now, when the outlook is black, it is their duty to get together again and again achieve what seemed the impossible. It is high time to teach certain incompetent city employees, unit candidates, that they cannot run the big over the people of the city this time. This matter will not be settled until it is settled right.

PUBLICITY OF ASSESSMENTS.

There who evade the tax laws are the loudest opponents of tax reform. They who protest that they are taxed beyond the straining point are very often the people who are nominally taxed or not taxed at all. Such seems to have been the case in Augusta county lately, where the people are trying to vote a road roads bond issue over the protests of some who allege that the additional burden of taxation would be unbearable. There was a meeting at Staunton Monday, and it was noticed that some one in the crowd kept interrupting the good roads speakers. When his name was ascertained, the speaker said to him: "Well, your communication to the newspapers led me to look you up recently, and I find that your wife pays taxes on 521 acres, and that you pay a capitation tax of \$150, which is not a valorem." That simple statement captured the crowd and shows what publicity in taxation can do.

This emphasizes a point lately made by the Hartford Courant: "There is no real secrecy about the ownership of real estate. Such property belongs to whoever may be registered at the town clerk's office as its owner. Anybody can study the records if he wishes." The Courant thinks that, as there is no secrecy about such ownership, it would be all right to have the ownership manifest to all, instead of merely to a few investigators. Suppose every building and lot had on its front in a conspicuous place (the law requiring it) the name of its owner, and suppose that such place, giving the owner's name also, bore a statement of the amount at which the property was assessed at the assessor's office. There is no secret about

the assessment or the ownership. Both are matters of public record; nobody looks it up. Let the marker be something like this:

This Property Belongs to
 John Smith,
 Assessed at \$5,000.

Now everybody knows that the common complaint is that like properties are not assessed alike. The cause for that complaint would be removed by such an open announcement of assessments. People could see and judge for themselves as to the real value of property and the need of equalization. It is such a simple and easy remedy that it is strange it has not been tried.

Equalization of taxation is the vital problem of Virginia to-day. Would not the idea here explained help solve that problem? Such a labeling of properties, with the names of their owners and their assessments, violates no confidence, invades no privacy, disturbs no right, for it is simply transcribing records and putting them in a place where that public inspection intended for public records would be more accessible. No wrong could be done the owners, but the city and State would profit greatly. An ounce of publicity is worth a session of legislative hot air. If the next General Assembly is no more constructive than was the late Legislature, it can at least pass a law in conformity to this suggestion.

ONE OF TRUTH'S MARTYRS.

Martyrs to science have been many, leaving shining traces upon the pages of time, but few of them have shown more courage or fortitude than Dr. Louis Nelson, instructor in pharmacology in the Harvard Medical School, who recently gave his life to the advancement of learning.

This brilliant young scientist for months had been studying the comparatively little known "gas" bacillus. In the course of his researches he became inoculated with the fatal germ himself. He knew that there was no hope of recovery. He continued his studies. He observed the progress of the disease in his own person. He noted everything down. He displayed as much enthusiasm in his scientific quest as if his life were not fading. Until his strength failed he kept zealously at his task, and finally the waning of life forced him to abandon his work for the sake of humanity and for the increase of human knowledge.

The case is exceptional, but there are many of the same following who knowingly and gladly risk their lives for the advancement of science. To a greater or less degree every medical practitioner does that, the risk being most manifest in the cases of those who study malignant diseases and their causes.

Such martyrdom to science is a splendid sacrifice for mankind. The world owes a debt to such men that it only partly realizes. For there have been many like young Nelson, near whose former laboratory is a simple white stone bearing what must have been the guiding sentiment of his life:

"Though love repine and reason chafe,
 There came a voice within me to reply:
 'Thy man's perdition to be safe
 When for the truth he ought to die.'"

OUR NORTHWEST CLAIM.

Senators Martin and Swanson, together with Senators Milton and Watson, of West Virginia, have attracted the interest of the nation by the introduction of a bill requiring the Federal government to account to the original thirteen States for the money it has received from the sale of the Northwest Territory. From the dawn of the republic, Virginia has stoutly maintained her right to reimbursement, and the persistence shown by our present Senators is in keeping with the State's long but righteous intention to have justice done, although it be delayed for a century and a quarter. A full settlement of this claim of Virginia and West Virginia would now cost the National Treasury \$100,000,000.

There is nothing new about the Northwest Territory claim; it has come forward at intervals from the time when the tract was parceled into smaller territories. It was originally the vast body of land comprehended between the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and the Great Lakes, out of which were carved the present States of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. It has been generally thought that the original thirteen States ceded the territory to the national government, which provided for its administration under the ordinance of 1787. Virginia, however, has always contended that such was not the case.

The territory under consideration was discovered and explored by the French, led by La Salle, about 1680. Its possession by France was not disputed until the middle of the eighteenth century, although charters granted by James I. and Charles II. gave jurisdiction over it to Connecticut and Virginia. In 1718, when the English began to establish trading posts and to plan for the settlement of the region, a controversy arose with the French that resulted in war. The English possession was established by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. Not much was done toward the settlement of the territory before the Revolution, although trading posts and some few thriving communities existed on the Great Lakes and on the Ohio and the Mississippi. During the Revolution disputes first arose between the States as to the ownership of the land, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Virginia laid claim to the Northwestern Territory, while the other nine States con-

sidered the land as the joint possession of the whole thirteen. Maryland, indeed, refused to accede to the Articles of Confederation unless the individual States yielded their claims. This caused a session to Congress of the lands in question. Connecticut, however, reserved a tract that was popularly known as the Western Reserve. This stretched along Lake Erie, west of Pennsylvania, and contained 3,666,291 acres. Virginia reserved a like tract to pay her land bounties. This was situated between the Miami, Scioto and Ohio Rivers, and contained 3,703,848 acres. In 1785 Congress provided for the survey and sale of western lands; in 1787 the ordinance for the government of the territory northwest of the Ohio, forbidding slavery in the entire region, was enacted.

The contention of Virginia is that her rights were ignored in the sale of these lands. West Virginia claims under Virginia. The Federal government has never reimbursed the Commonwealth for the lands. It is time this claim were settled and settled right. The Christian Science Monitor states the judicial view of the claim thus:

"It is not fair to assume that Virginia and West Virginia are seeking anything to which their people do not believe themselves entitled. The fact that over a century has elapsed since a wrong was committed does not make the wrong right. * * * What is called for is an inquiry into the matter, and a settlement that will be just and honorable."

It is to be hoped that our congressional delegation will push this matter until something definite is done about it. It ought not to hang fire any longer. The amount of the claim should spur our representatives to the limit of effort, for its full payment would not only be of immeasurable material assistance to the Old Dominion, but a recognition of her magnificent generosity in the making of the nation.

MAKE THINGS PLAIN.

Some one has said that shooting over the heads of the congregation is the "vice" of the pulpit. All too often it is also the "vice" of the school room. In a recent address before the Ethical Culture Society of Philadelphia, Professor Taylor, of the University of Pennsylvania, advanced some thoughts on this subject well worthy of being taken seriously to mind by both teachers and the appointing authorities of the school system. By the former, in whom it may exist, that they may cure themselves of the vice, as far as may be, if they can; by the latter, in order to be more careful and discriminating in selecting teaching corps, in order to safeguard against the vice's obtaining and spreading.

In impressing the irrefutable fact, which is so frequently overlooked, that great erudition, profound research and wide scholarship do not necessarily imply ability to communicate knowledge, and that the most learned are often the most impotent to impart information, not merely owing to their incapacity as expounders, because of the mental resistance encountered, Professor Taylor laid down this epigrammatic and striking proposition: "It takes two to speak the truth; one to speak the truth, and one to hear it." In exposition thereof, it is not enough, he argued, to simplify the language, the idea, too, must be classified to the child's intelligence. Some writers of text-books, he continued, assume that if a complicated theory is translated into words of one syllable it becomes comprehensible, whereas the theory in itself may be beyond the grasping power of the child.

The Philadelphia Ledger, in discussing and concluding in these contentions, clinches their soundness and timeliness. "Herein," remarks that contemporary, "lies the real genius of teaching—in so planning and preparing the mental diet that there is meat for babes and that which is meat for strong men are not confused." In short, the genius of teaching is embraced and summarily comprehended in three words—make things plain.

To do this is the first and the highest duty of the teacher. No less is it the first and the highest duty of the appointing powers to see, in selecting the teacher, that he is qualified for that duty. Success in that direction is the greatest achievement either the teacher or the superior official authority he is responsible to can attain to in advancing the cause of truth and basic education. Also it comprehends discharge of the greatest of the obligations of either to the child and the parent.

However well educated a teacher may be otherwise, his education and qualifications for teaching are sadly deficient if he is not educated in the art of making things plain. In a word, he is not a teacher.

The Richmond Blues honor themselves in honoring the memory of Major Zerkland Butt.

The Richmond Health Department really means every person who can swing a newspaper to a waltz.

It is a good thing that no game law forbids the swift extinction of those wild beasts of dance, the turkey trot and the bunny hug.

A change of venue means no change of heart in the determination to deal full justice to the Carroll county murderers.

Justice Brumby will get through the Senate investigation of his conduct a long while before he gets through with his own conscience.

The proper setting for a cork in Spain is surely an old-fashioned Virginia garden in spring.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Caught on the Fly.

An Iowa woman has laughed herself into hysterics over a newspaper story. It must have been something about Uncle Jim Wilson's probable resignation from the Cabinet.

An English editor has just died, leaving \$10,000,000. It is evidently not the custom in England to send in cordwood and pumpkins for subscription.

A Youngstown (O.) couple eloped on the bumpers of a freight train, which is another instance in which the course of true love did not run smooth.

Hon. Joe Bailey, of Texas, has endorsed Taft. It doesn't seem as though the President has done anything bad enough to deserve that.

"Little Joe" Brown is again governor of Georgia. He ought to be able to work this up into a vaudeville stunt after awhile.

A government report says more bank notes are in circulation now than ever before, and they all keep right on circulating too.

Perhaps it would be well for the Chinese republic to hurry up and take that census before there are any more babies.

Russia has thrown a boat into prison. Upon very rare occasions Russia does something worth while.

According to Uncle Abner.

Some fellows get their reputation for learning by going to college, while others save time by merely buying eye-glasses.

I always have my suspicions of a "good" man. Most of 'em are too good to be true.

Len Higgins says he always stops smoking during political campaigns, but he knows he has added at least twenty years to his life by so doing.

The old philosopher who said there was nothing impossible in this world never tried to get a real poem published in a 15-cent magazine.

Things That Make Life Worth Living.

Admiring a pretty woman's back and finding out that she is your wife with her hair done up a new way.

Sitting beside a man in the theatre who saw the play with the original company.

Getting a bunch of No. 14 collars from the laundry when you wear 17's and when you have to have one for the party that evening.

Receiving a tall, dignified, clerical looking gentleman whom you take for a minister, and finding him in the house politely only to have him hand you a bill from the coal company.

4 The Sultan of Sulu.

The Sultan of Sulu has looked us all over. He says we American men are in clover.

Because in the matter of trouble and strife, we're lucky in that we have only one wife.

With envy the monarch of Sulu is green; The last time he counted he had just sixteen.

Poor little Sultan of Sulu.

Imagine the fix of the Sultan of Sulu, With Isabel and Aenes and Myrtle and Lulu.

And Hattie and Nellie and Mollie and Grace; Each ready to scratch up the other one's face.

Imagine the tongue lashing, hair pulling spats When the Sultan comes up for their new autumn hats.

Poor little Sultan of Sulu.

The Sultan must be quite an adept in ruses. He has to think at least fourteen excuses.

When he stays out late with the rounders at night, And doesn't get home until early day-light.

Atone in plenty he makes for his sin, In facing fourteen good, old, stout rolling pins.

Poor little Sultan of Sulu.

Of course, there is something in wedding a secrete. But we who have married just one wife and kept her

Are mostly inclined to be pleased with our lot. No matter if we rule the roost or not.

If to have fourteen wives is the way of the Kingdom of Sulu, we don't care to Sulu.

Poor little Sultan of Sulu.

Voice of the People

City Hospital.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I have today sent the following letter to Mayor Richardson:

Hon. David C. Richardson, Mayor of the City of Richmond, Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir:—I am at a loss to understand why there should be such hesitation in accepting the gift of the Memorial Hospital on behalf of the city. The opinion seems wholly in favor of accepting the gift, and I have seen no substantial argument against it.

That the city needs a public hospital is not open to discussion. I understand the feeling of the city, and the Committee on the Relief of the Poor had declared that this need was

Urgent.

Noting in a recent issue of your paper the following editorial declaration, I clipped it out and sent it to Rev. H. H. Hutton, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charlotte, and asked him to give me the facts, as far as they could be secured, about Charlotte. This is your editorial note about the hospital.

"Prohibition in Charlotte is almost as mythical as the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence."

Dr. Hutton felt that the answer to my inquiry ought to be made by a representative company, and he referred it to the Ministers' Association of that city, and they make the following statement in response:

(I hope you may find room for it in your columns.)

"We unhesitatingly say that there is no comparison of conditions now and when we had eighteen saloons in this city. There were streets which ladies did not dare to walk. Now they can walk anywhere on any street without walking through crowds of liquor-drinking men congregated about saloon doors."

"We also affirm that the improvement in moral conditions is at least a hundred per cent. over the reign of the saloons. Prosperity since the coming in of prohibition, has been unparalleled, and we challenge a contradiction of these facts. Never has the city shown such marvelous and

POLITICS ARE CHANGING.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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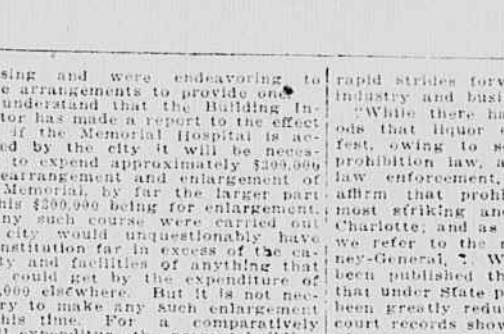
In the old days, the statesman could get up on a platform and bombard a hypnotized audience with patriotic platitudes and a pocketful of clichés, backed up with a vocabulary of meaningless words. In these days political lines were bounded by prejudice and intense party feeling. A party man would rather vote for a yellow dog than a Democrat. The statesman did as he pleased in Washington and depended upon his oratory to square him with the voters at election time.



Nowadays, the thinking voters are hot air proof. They have to be shown. They love the flag, but object to having it used as a decoy by windy politicians. The fact that a man is a good fellow does not excuse him for being a crook. The voters flash a statesman's record on him, and refuse to be flummoxed by an office holder who is an insurmountable when he votes in congress. The voters want a man who is not afraid to come out flat-footed for or against an issue and who never expresses an opinion until he has first considered the political effect of it.



Nowadays, when a congressman hates the wicked trucks in public and serves them in private, he is called down good and hard, and no amount of glad handing, infectious smiling, and telling you how well you look can flummox the decent and intelligent citizen who wants good government.



Nowadays, the statesman of the old school finds it hard to understand the progressive tendencies of the times. He thinks the demand for honesty in public life is demagoguery. He sneers at all reformers as "unlifters" and "muckrakers." He thinks that the progressive movement is capturing the imagination of the country is simply another phase of populism which will soon disappear. His old ammunition of invective and hot air no longer has effect, and he longs for the good old days again.

rapid strides forward in all lines of industry and business. "While there have been some periods of liquor drinking was rampant, owing to some defects in our prohibition law, and some laxness of law enforcement, we unhesitatingly affirm that prohibition has been a most striking and signal success in Charlotte, and as to State prohibition, we refer to the report of the Attorney-General, W. W. Hickett, which has been published throughout the State, that under State prohibition, crime has been greatly reduced in the State, as court records show. And as a further vindication of the fact, we refer to Governor Kitchin's public utterances, in which he has stated the same. We also append some statements from Chief Justice Clark, under the heading 'Prohibition in North Carolina'.

"Prohibition is not a failure in North Carolina if the statement of Chief Justice Walter Clark, of the State Supreme Court, is to be given credence. Crime has been reduced 50 per cent., murder in the first degree has declined 32 per cent., in two years; burglary 40 per cent.; attacks with deadly weapons 30 per cent.; larceny 40 per cent.; manslaughter 35 per cent.; murder in the second degree 21 per cent.; minor crimes from 25 to 35 per cent., and there has been a falling off of 15 per cent. in violation of the antiquiquary laws."

This is signed by Thomas D. Cartledge, secretary pro tem. I am, sir, with sincere respect, Yours faithfully,

R. H. PITT.

Farewell.

The fatal hour, the surge of power, the silence of the sea; The death that swiftly rode that night on wings of destiny; The joy of life that once gave back its vision to the skies; The shadow horror of the deep, and all its mysteries.

On, 'tis to break the heart with pride, how many a hero stood; How, swift to save the sinking and brave defied the rising flood; While loved ones spake the long farewell, when in a moment came The death who woe across a world that night his dreadful name.

Farewell! On, sorrow forged, and fraught with many and many a tear! Love clung unto the loved that night, and whispering in the ear, spake: "In the word of hope—farewell, for yet it cannot be. That any sea or any death may hide thy love from me."

Years add unto the hastening years the story of the brave; Or be it three times of the storm, or perils of the wave. How yet the strong the burdens bear of every crucial day, and fling as but a lesser thing the thought of fear away;

And leave as but a lesser thing the life that's only given; That we may win the wider worlds when all these bonds are riven, and find amid the victories which no eloquence can tell. How 'tis a prophet voice that speaks the tenderest FAREWELL.

BENJAMIN C. MOOMAW, Savannah, Va.

A Citizen's Ticket at the General Election.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—It is apparent that the politicians, as usual, are determined to run the city "rule or ruin" is their motto, and to that end they insist upon the direct primary as the means of nominating the Administrative



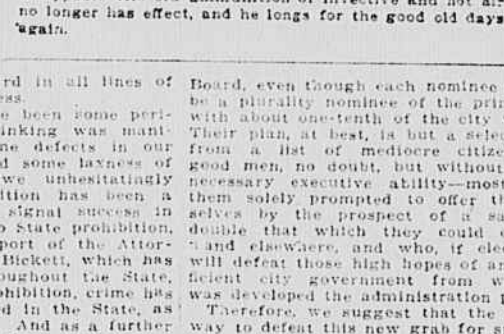
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Board, even though each nominee may be a morality nominee of the primary, with about one-tenth of the city vote. Their plan, at best, is but a selection from a list of mediocre citizens—good men, no doubt, but without the necessary executive ability—most of them solely prompted to offer themselves by the prospect of a salary double that which they could command elsewhere, and who, if elected, will defeat those high hopes of an efficient city government from which was developed the administration plan. Therefore, we suggest that the best way to defend this new grab for spoils is for all good citizens to refrain from voting in the primary. Let every one who wishes to give the new board a fair trial by selecting the best material possible to carry it into effect, refuse to vote in the enforced primary.

They will then be free after seeing the result of that primary—to select from our best business men those who have done the best possible to help our city, now in the shadow of a great calamity. City. CIVIC PROSPERITY.

NATIONAL SAVINGS AND CITY BANK
 3% ON SAVINGS 3%

SERVICE impartially rendered in the smallest account in the bank receives the same courteous prompt and efficient attention as does the account of large volume. It is a factor which contributes to the number of corporations, firms and individuals who open accounts with the National State and City Bank.

The sound financial condition of this institution is evidenced by the figures given in our statement published to-day